In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1-3, 9, and 11-16 as follows. For convenience in examination, all pending claims are set forth below.

1. (Original) A method for providing an automated call connection system comprising the steps of:

a/ initiating a call back request from a first user to a second user;

b/ sending the call back request from the first user to the second user;

c/ receiving the call back request; and

d/ [automatically connecting] if the second user accepts the call back request, immediately and automatically attempting to connect the first user and the second user [when the second user accepts the call back request].

2. (Once Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of: using a separate [packet based] packet-based network to determine if the second user is ready to accept the call back request.

3. (Once Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of: bypassing call toll charges by using a [packet based] packet-based network for the sending of call back requests.

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4. (Original) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of: utilizing a computer for the sending of the call back requests to a server collecting the call back requests.

5. (Original) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the call back requests are automatically sent via at least one of an E-mail message, a pager and a facsimile.

6. (Original) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the call back requests are provided to the second user on a telephone display.

7. (Original) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein the call back requests are delivered to a voice mail system.

8. (Original) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

maintaining a connection between the first user and the second user for a predetermined period of time;

wherein the predetermined period of time is specified by the first user.

9. (Once Amended) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined

in claim 1, wherein the first user is provided with the option of placing a message in a voice mail system if the call back request is refused.

10. (Original) The method of providing an automated call connection system as defined in claim 1, wherein a personal digital assistant is used to initiate the call back request.

11. (Once Amended) A system for providing an automated call connection comprising:

a first user input device for initiating and sending a call back request;

a second user output device for receiving the call back requests;

a network connection for providing communication between the first user input device and the second user output device such that the callback request is automatically transferred between a first user and a second user; and

wherein if the second user accepts the call back request, a direct call is automatically and immediately placed from the second user to the first user [when the second user accepts the call back request].

12. (Once Amended) The system for providing an automated all connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the network connection includes a separate [packet based] packet-based network, the second [packet based] packet-based network determining if the second user is ready to accept the call back request.

13. (Once Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 12, wherein call toll charges are bypassed through use of the [packet based] packet-based network.

14. (Once Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the first user input device is at least one of a personal data assistant, a computer, a telephone and a facsimile machine.

15. (Once Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the second user output device is at least one of a personal data assistant, a computer, a telephone and a facsimile machine.

16. (Once Amended) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the call back requests are automatically sent via at least one of an E-mail message, a pager and a facsimile device.

17. (Original) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 1, wherein the call back requests are provided to the second user on a telephone display.

18. (Original) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the call back requests are delivered to a voice mail system.

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19. (Original) The system for providing an automated call connection as defined in claim 11, wherein the network connection is maintained for a predetermined period of time, and the predetermined period of time is specified by the first user.